

Members

Rep. Terry Goodin, Vice-Chairperson  
Rep. Robert Bischoff  
Rep. Phyllis Pond  
Rep. William Ruppel  
Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson  
Sen. David Ford  
Sen. Allie Craycraft  
Sen. James Lewis



# INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

## MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

Meeting Date:	September 22, 2003
Meeting Time:	3:30 P.M.
Meeting Place:	Board Room of the Administration Building, Indiana State Fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38thSt.,
Meeting City:	Indianapolis, Indiana
Meeting Number:	1

**Members Present:** Rep. Terry Goodin, Vice-Chairperson; Rep. Robert Bischoff;  
Rep. William Ruppel; Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson;  
Sen. David Ford; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. James Lewis.

**Members Absent:** Rep. Phyllis Pond.

Chairperson Goodin called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The members of the committee introduced themselves. A special introduction was made of four visitors who are employed by the national and provincial legislatures in South Africa who are working with the Legislative Services Agency. Others in attendance were introduced.

### 1. Preliminary Report of the 2003 Indiana State Fair

Mr. William Stinson, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair, furnished the Committee with the 2003 Update of the Fair (Exhibit A.) Attendance by far exceeded that of the past,

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

partly due to excellent coverage by the Indianapolis Star. As before, it is challenging to book quality entertainment. New this year was an exhibition by skateboarder Tony Hawk; his fans filled two grandstands, and the predominantly teenaged crowd then headed straight for the Midway. Those attendees led to the second highest attendance for a weekday in history.

Also popular was Garrison Keillor and the Prairie Home Companion radio show for National Public Radio; close to 10,000 visitors watched the performance. Mr. Stinson thanked the members of the General Assembly for their funding assistance. Because of renovations in earlier years, the public expects continued quality improvements to the grounds and the entertainment. The weather forecasts never were perfect, but the public came nonetheless.

In 2004, 4-H will celebrate its 100th anniversary. For that reason, the 4-H buildings are being renovated and will be the feature of the first day of the 2004 Fair. Work is also being done on the East Pavilion (Draft Horse Barn) .

Rep. Ruppel commented that the diversity of the acts helped attendance, and that visitors from other states with whom he spoke were impressed with how clean the grounds were. Rep. Bischoff noted that projected revenue was up \$200,000 over expenses. Mr. Stinson stated that due to the rebuilding of the Dairy Bar which added more customer bays, its revenue was up 30%. A loan was given to the Milk Promotion Services of Indiana for the construction of the Dairy Bar, with repayment beginning in 2004. In answer to Rep. Bischoff, Mr. Stinson stated that the sheep, beef, pork, and poultry producers all have food sales, but those are done out of tents rather than permanent structures.

Susan Montgomery of the Legislative Services Agency gave the Committee a copy of an article spotlighting the Fair sent to her from her brother from Dubai, United Arab Emirates, that appeared in the Gulf News (Exhibit B).

## **2. Report from the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn)**

Betsy Jones, Executive Director of The Barn, reported on its recent activities. A Farmer's Market was begun and had moderate success. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program reported that this venue had one of the three highest redemption rates in the city for its vouchers for food purchased at the Market. The Barn is applying for a grant for distance learning equipment and is interested in this as a part of its educational mission. Ms Jones distributed copies of the poster advertising the Farmers' Market grand opening to the Committee (Exhibit C).

Former Senator Dick Thompson spoke to the Committee concerning potential legislation changing the Barn to a quasi-governmental agency rather than a state agency. Discussion ensued; Rep. Ruppel expressed his concern regarding the funding for such a change, and the funding's source. The Legislative Services Agency was instructed to provide the Committee with a memorandum concerning the Barn's current operation and what a potential change would bring.

There being no further business before the Committee, Chairperson Goodin adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m., and set the next meeting for October 27, 2003 at 3:30p.m.

